

**Special greetings**

Volunteers light up lives for two days

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# Fort Riley Post

**Troopers win**

Three teams defeat Eisenhower squads

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Thursday, February 17, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 7

**Around The Army****Europe:**

The European Stars and Stripes reported Feb. 15, that, after 60 years of debate, Army officials have finally decided to create a badge for non-infantry Soldiers that recognizes their direct participation in ground combat.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker presented the new Close Combat Badge, or CCB, to a cadre of senior officers Feb. 11 during a regularly scheduled meeting of four-star Army generals, according to an Army personnel spokesman.

The new badge will be the equivalent of the Army's Combat Infantry Badge, which was created in 1943. The CIB, in the form of a rifle surrounded by a wreath, is reserved for infantry and Special Forces Soldiers only.

For more about this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit [estripes.com](http://estripes.com) on the Web.

**Fort Benning:**

The Bayonet reported Jan. 28 that Drug Enforcement Administration agents were training at Fort Benning for a future mission in Afghanistan. The agents will be helping the Afghan police develop a federal narcotics agency to disrupt illicit drug trafficking in that country.

For more about this story and other Fort Benning news, visit [www.thebayonet.com](http://www.thebayonet.com) on the Web.

**Fort Irwin:**

The High Desert Warrior at Fort Irwin, Calif., reported Feb. 3 it had changed its name.

It also reported that the post's Directorate of Information Management and Criminal Investigations Division were cracking down on illegal Internet use by post personnel.

It reported that monitoring of official computers resulted in monthly reports revealing the 10 individuals found to be misusing government computers the most to surf the Internet.

**Fort Knox:**

The Turret reported Feb. 3 that actor Sean Astin, who has starred in such films as "Rudy" and "The Lord of the Rings," was on the post to speak at the Armor Ball in Louisville, Ky., Feb. 5, and had autographed a copy of the Jan. 6 Turret, which carried his name "above the fold," in the top half of the paper's front page.

For more about this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news, visit [www.turret.com](http://www.turret.com) on the Web.

**Dont' forget**

Pentagon attack survivor Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell will be the guest speaker at the National Prayer Luncheon 11:45 a.m. Feb. 24 at Riley's.

Tickets are available from post chaplains. Suggested donation is \$6.

Birdwell will be available to sign copies of his book, "Refined By Fire."

## Preston: 100K to change jobs

Soldiers in low-demand skills face moves to high-demand specialties

By Jim Moser

Army News Service

TAMPA, Fla. — More than 100,000 Soldiers will move from "Cold War" jobs to positions such as military police and civil affairs as part of Army transformation,

said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston.

Preston visited MacDill Air Force Base Feb. 7 to meet with U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command troops. He held two enlisted calls and spoke at a luncheon where he presented awards to top Soldiers

in the joint commands, the National Guard, Army Reserve, Recruiting Command and ROTC.

"We have a lot of troops in 'Cold War' jobs," Preston said. "I call these 'high density, low demand' fields. The Army is going to rebalance those people to 'high demand, low density' fields

like military police and civil affairs. Somewhere between 100,000 to 115,000 Soldiers will transform to new positions."

During the enlisted calls, Preston covered topics such as Army transformation and the performance of the Army Guard and Reserve units deployed overseas.

"Two things transformation gives our Soldiers and their families are predictability and stability," he said.

"We have grown the Army by three brigades and by 2006 this number will increase to 10. These

See Changes, Page 2

## Year gone by

Smiles, play decorate unit's return

By April Blackmon

Staff writer

Bettina Smith and her two children were standing in the crowd with a bouquet of flowers for their friend, Sgt. Wayne Nicholas, Feb. 15. She and numerous other friends and family members were waiting for the 150 Soldiers of the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) to walk into Marshall Army Air Field's Hangar 817 that evening.

"I'm excited for him to be back here in the states. I know he was looking forward to that," she said. "I'm happy he made it back home safe."

The Soldiers deployed in February 2004 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was the company's second rotation to Iraq.

Tears streamed down faces and screams of joy and deafening cheers filled the hangar as the line of Soldiers finally filed in on a red path lined with balloons. Once they formed in front of the restless crowd, Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, spoke to the Soldiers and crowd.

"You were the difference between life and death for Americans and for other coalition forces, and I know even for Iraqis in the battlefield," he said. "We acknowledged when you left that you were a special unit ... and we are indeed very, very grateful to have you back here tonight."



Post/Blackmon

Capt. Dean Martin, 82nd Med. Co. (AA) executive officer, and his 3-year-old daughter, Megan, begin to catch up on play time at the company's Feb. 15 redeployment ceremony.

## Flying medics complete Iraq mission

By Aaron J. Orr

82nd Med. Co. (AA)

The 82nd Med. Co. (AA) flew more than 5,100 patients and nearly 2,700 hours in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from February 2004 to February 2005.

Soldiers in the unit's Tactical Operations Center answered the calls for medical evacuation. They quickly gathered information about the mission and passed that along to

the appropriate duty crew. If it was a "nine-line," an urgent point-of-injury pickup request, the first-up crew sprinted to their aircraft, quickly suited up and started the Black Hawk's engines.

The air ambulance unit served many customers, said Cpt. Charles Cook, operations officer-in-charge. Besides point-of-injury missions, "We did the blood mission, CASF (Contingency Aeronautical Staging Facility) [transfer of injured personnel from

hospitals to Balad for flights out of theater for further treatment], and prisoners to Abu Ghraib," he said.

Though calls occasionally came directly from troops on the ground, "[Missions were] almost always relayed. It was good because brigade would know the situation on the ground," Cook said.

From the time a call was answered by operations personnel, it usually took no

See Mission, Page 3

## Fort Riley, 11 others to get repairs

Barracks improvements aimed at correcting poor conditions

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Fort Riley and 11 other installations will share housing benefits provided in the initial stage of the Army's \$250 million Barracks Improvement Program.

Other installations picked for

the first are Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Fort Gordon and Fort Stewart, Ga.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Eustis, Va.; and Fort Lewis, Wash.

About \$96 million is needed to improve conditions in permanent-

party barracks at the 12 installations, an Installation Management Agency official said. He said that would leave about \$154 million in the program for later this year to improve living conditions at other posts for single Soldiers living in permanent-party barracks.

"This will make a huge difference in the quality of life for Sol-

diers," said Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, director of the Installation Management Agency. "The immediate funding is not intended to fully renovate any barracks. The first priority is to remediate the most serious problems so every Soldier has a safe place to

See Barracks, Page 2

## Soldier dies in Iraq

Staff report

Spec. Jeffrey S. Henthorn, 25, of Chocoma, Okla., died Feb. 8, in Balad, Iraq, from non-combat related injuries.

Henthorn was a heavy vehicle operator for Fort Riley's 24th Transportation Company.

He enlisted in the Army National Guard in December 1996 and in the regular Army in July 2003.

Henthorn had been stationed at Fort Riley since August 2003 and deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in December 2004. The incident is under investigation.

About 4,150 Fort Riley Soldiers are deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This incident brings the number of Fort Riley Soldiers who have died while serving in support Operation Iraqi Freedom to 44.

## Accused Soldiers await findings

Article 32 investigation will decide next step

By Gary Skidmore

Command Info. Officer

The Article 32 hearing of Sgt. Aaron Stanley, 22, and Sgt. Eric Colvin, 23, both of the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, faced a Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 32 hearing at Fort Riley Feb. 10-11.

The court martial convening authority for Fort Riley will use the findings of the Article 32 hearing to decide whether the Soldiers will face court martial. It could take several weeks before the investigating officer makes a recommendation whether there is sufficient evidence to go to court martial, said Maj. David Velloney, Fort Riley's deputy Staff Judge Advocate.

Military officials, acting in accordance with UCMJ provisions, charged the two Soldiers in the Sept. 13 shooting deaths of Staff Sgt. Matthew Werner, 30, and Spc. Christopher Hymer, 23.

See Hearing, Page 2



**Jaelyn Chapman, a human resources representative with FedEx, explains the manager and driver's position requirements to a job fair visitor. Drivers for the company are self-employed independent contractors and purchase their own trucks.**

## Fair-goers check out job opportunities

Nearly two dozen companies and 100 visitors came to the Army Career and Alumni Program Job Fair Feb. 11.

The career fair was open to everyone on post, but ACAP and the employers target Soldiers who are considering separation from the Army, said David Horner III, contractor installation manager.

"The fair is an opportunity for Soldiers to get information to make a good decision and weigh the difference between Army and civilian work," Horner said.

Some employers, such as FedEx, are looking for junior executives and supervisors, but others, such as Wichita Area Technical College, are looking for people interested in applied training in medical, manufacturing and other careers.

ACAP plans another career fair May 11.

## Changes

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new brigades and the ones already transformed in their respective divisions will have a three-year lifecycle. Troops in these brigades will remain together – train, deploy and redeploy as a team – over a three-year period.

"So when a Soldier goes to one of these new brigades, he or she can plan on being with the unit for at least a three-year stay at a given location.

"When the three years are up, Soldiers can PCS to a new base or possibly remain where they are for another cycle," he explained.

It is not new news that the Army National Guard and Reserve are heavily engaged, Preston said. Citizen-Soldiers are on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters around the world.

The sergeant major pointed out at one time the Guard and Reserve were the Army's poor relation.

"In the past, the Guard and Reserves received the hand-me-downs and leftovers from the active-duty Army," Preston said.

"But not anymore – 40 percent of our forces in the Iraqi AOR are

Guard and Reserve. They are highly trained and well-equipped professionals. I'm proud to serve with them, and we couldn't do the mission without them.

"I'm very proud of what our Soldiers are doing," he said. "I hope when they finish their tours, they can look back and say, 'I helped make the world a safer place.'"

*Editor's note: Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser serves with the U.S. Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office.*

## Hearing

continued from page 1

Stanley and Colvin were charged with conspiracy to commit murder, two specifications of premeditated murder, wrongful possession with the intent to distribute marijuana and wrongful distribution of methamphetamines.

Stanley also was charged for being absent without leave, violating an order restricting him to the limits of Fort Riley and for adultery.

Colvin also was charged with wrongful use of methamphetamines.

The investigating officer heard testimony from the defense, prosecution and 26 people during the two-day hearing.

Velloney said an Article 32 investigation has often been compared to the preliminary hearing and grand jury of the civilian justice system because it is functionally similar to both.

"All three of these proceedings

are theoretically similar in that each is concerned with determining whether there is sufficient probable cause to believe a crime was committed and whether the person accused of the crime committed it," he said.

The Article 32 investigation, however, is broader in scope and more protective of the accused, Velloney said.

Military Article 32 investigations are generally open proceedings that may be attended by the public, Velloney said. A grand jury investigation, on the other hand, is closed and secret with only the prosecution represented, he added.

"Unlike a grand jury proceeding, the accused has the right to be present at the (Article 32) investigation; the right to be represented by an attorney; the right to present evidence; and the right to review a copy of the investigation report as well," Velloney said.

## Barracks

continued from page 1

live."

Correcting life, health and safety problems is the primary focus, IMA officials said.

Barracks Improvement Program goals also include mold and mildew removal; repairing or replacing damaged heating or air conditioning systems; fixing water leaks; and ensuring all toilets, showers and plumbing are in working condition. Painting of buildings and repair of doors and windows to improve living conditions is planned.

"IMA is uniquely positioned as the single overseer of installations to see that this money gets spent

in the right places and for the right things to make a real difference for Soldiers," Johnson said.

"The Army has committed about \$250 million a year to repair and maintain facilities to make sure they don't fall into disrepair again," he said.

The Army has focused on improving Soldiers' living standards for more than 10 years and steadily has been building and modernizing barracks under a \$10 billion construction program, an IMA official said.

He said the Army has requested \$716 million in fiscal 2006 to continue barracks modernization.

## Post news in brief

### Safety office to offer ATV, dirt bike class

The Installation Safety Office has begun to offer a Dirt Bike RiderCourse and an All-Terrain Vehicle Training RiderCourse.

The hands-on, half-day Dirt Bike and/or ATV RiderCourse is conducted by licensed Dirt Bike and All-Terrain Safety Institute Instructors.

The course offers students an opportunity to practice basic safety techniques with hands-on exercises covering starting and stopping, turning gradually and quickly, negotiating hills, emergency stopping and swerving, and riding over obstacles.

Particular emphasis is placed on the safety implications relating to each lesson.

The course also covers protective gear, environmental concerns and local laws.

Participants receive the Dirt Bike or ATV RiderCourse Handbook that reinforces safety information and riding techniques covered during the training.

The courses are offered to military members only.

For enrollment, contact the unit schools noncommissioned officer, safety officer or safety noncommissioned officer for coordination.

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## Mission continued from page 1

more than 10 minutes to launch the medevac crew, he said.

Most times, a crew did not know who the troop was they were helping, but occasionally the unit was involved in missions that received much media attention.

"We picked up Thomas Hamil, the KBR guy who was kidnapped and escaped," Cook recalled.

The unit also moved injured Iraqi businessmen from Baghdad to Balad. They were then flown to the United States and given state-of-the-art prosthetic hands to replace the hands that had been cut off by Saddam Hussein's regime as punishment for using American currency.

The 82nd Med. Co. (AA) provided medical evacuation to all [military] branches plus civilians and Iraqi nationals," said Company Commander Maj. Cara Alexander.

Sgt. Brandon Green, a flight medic, said the unit evacuated many different people, "Iraqis, Ukraines, Turks, [CIA]."

Despite getting good information about operations, "You don't know what to expect when you first get out there," Green said. "Every mission's different. The only thing we think about is what we have to do when we get there. It's all about [patient assessment]."

The company's medical evacuation crews often worked hand-in-hand with the Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi police forces.

"A lot of times [the ING] would load [their patients on] the aircraft," Green recalled. "They would get low and come in together and leave together," in the textbook way to safely and efficiently load a patient.

Even the enemy received care on the 82nd Med. Co.'s aircraft. "Sometimes it's a struggle when you just picked up a U.S. Soldier," Green said, "but a human being's a human being whether they're an insurgent or whatever."

When the flight was a "blood run," the second-up crew would

spool up and transport the boxes of chilled human blood, gathered from donors, to combat support hospitals, forward operating bases and even areas where captured insurgents were being held.

Patient transfers comprised the bread and butter of the second-up crews. Those calls came from a local hospital that had a patient who needed a higher level of care, Alexander said.

In order to keep the mission going day and night, the unit's Aviation Unit Maintenance platoon stayed on 24-hour standby.

"We always had a squad of four or five guys in tents [on the airfield] plus [someone from] avionics and [technical] supply," said Cpl. Dale Curtis, a squad leader and mechanic in the AVUM platoon.

Without maintenance support the crews couldn't pull missions. The same went for fuel to refill the birds after every mission.

The unit's fuelers worked 24-hour shifts refueling aircraft at all hours of the day and night.

"Some days we were slammed," said Sgt. Jerry Fidler, a fueler and squad leader for the Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants section. But, "there were some days where they flew only two to three missions," he said.

In the 12 months the unit spent in theater, fuelers pumped 360,000 gallons of fuel.

Without the mechanics who kept the unit's trucks and generators in working order, the unit's refueling and maintenance operations would have been crippled.

"Headquarters is our workhorse," Alexander said. They were always fixing generators and electrical problems, she said. When a generator went down, that was a big problem. They had to react and fix it, she said.

Maintenance personnel kept the trucks running so unit supply and technical [aircraft] supply could pick up parts and supplies to keep the unit functioning.



*82nd Med. Co./Orr*  
Sgt. Dwayne Gadsden, a flight medic with the 82nd Med. Co. (AA), attaches heart monitor leads to a cardiac patient while in flight. The evacuation flights carried a variety of patients, including U.S., Iraq and coalition members.



*82nd Med. Co./Orr*  
Spc. Pete Darling inspects the underside of a Humvee for leaks during a weekly maintenance inspection of the 82nd Med. Co.'s vehicles in Iraq.



*82nd Med. Co./Orr*  
Spec. Danny Nguyen stencils new vehicle numbers on one of the 82nd Med. Co.'s Humvees in Iraq.

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## Post news in brief

### Holiday alters trash schedule

In observance of the President's Day holiday, the refuse schedule will change Feb. 21-25. The schedule will be:

**Feb. 21** – No pick up.

**Feb. 22** – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621.

**Feb. 23** – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Montie Heights, Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 470, 540, 541, 542 and 5309.

**Feb. 24** – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights, dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

**Feb. 25** – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue), dumpster at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

For more information, call 239-6274.

### Special Forces briefings set

Briefings for Soldiers interested in pursuing a career change to the Special Forces will be conducted on post at noon and 5 p.m. Feb. 22 and at 10 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. Feb. 23. Briefings will be conducted in the post retention office.

The Special Forces is seeking qualified Soldiers in grade E-4 to E-6 (some E-3s and E-7s are eligible) and first lieutenants and captains in year group 03.

For more information, call Special Forces recruiters at (877) 840-8502 or DSN 883-1461.

# Kansas honors U.S. military, bases

By Cassidy Hill

Asst. Com. Rel. Officer

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius honored Fort Riley and other U.S. military members and installations in the state during the annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day at the state capitol Feb. 15.

Sebelius signed a proclamation declaring the day as Armed Forces Appreciation Day in Kansas.

Sebelius said that Armed Forces Appreciation Day is a day to honor all the Kansas military installations for their economic impact on the state. She said the primary military installations of Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, McConnell Air Force Base and Forbes Field employ 69,000 people and generate \$1.6 billion in payroll in the state of Kansas.

The governor said that Armed Forces Appreciation Day is an opportunity for Kansans to show their appreciation for the significant social and economic impact that the military - active duty, Reserve and National Guard - have in the state of Kansas and around the world.

Fort Riley set up an information booth on the second floor of the capitol's Rotunda and the

Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard participated in the day's activities by riding their mounts around the capitol building and posing with Sebelius for photos.

Col. "Buck" Connor, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), and Chap. (Maj.) Nathan Zimmerman were recognized during the House session.

Zimmerman opened the House session with a prayer. He said it was an honor to represent the Army and Fort Riley.

"I am always thrilled to visit the state capitols," Zimmerman said. "I just love it!"

Connor addressed the representatives of the House and said the Armed Forces Appreciation Day shows that the state of Kansas and its people support the military.

"That's always great for the Soldiers and families to know that they have the support of the communities in which they work and live," Connor said. "We are very proud of the fact that we are from Kansas, and we made that known while we were in Iraq."

Connor commanded the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during a recent yearlong tour supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Post/Skidmore

Sgt. Vincent Aguilar, right, with the Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard shows off his civil war era pistol to CSM Steve Rodina, left, Kansas National Guard State Command Sergeant Major, Maj. Gen. Todd Bunting, Kansas adjutant general and Kenneth Hackerthorn, a state capitol employee. Aguilar and other members of the CGMCG were at the capitol as part of the state's Military Appreciation Day.

## Transformation drives biggest change Army fights global war while adapting structure to meet future missions

By Gerry J. Gilmore

AFPS

WASHINGTON – Fighting the war against global terrorism while simultaneously transforming itself to confront 21st-century threats is challenging the Army, a top military officer told U.S. House members Feb. 3.

The U.S. Army is in the midst of its greatest transformation since the period just before America's entry into World War II, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody noted in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee.

"This is the most significant change of your Army since 1939," Cody told committee members.

The Army is now transforming its Cold War-era, heavy-division structure into a more mobile, brigade-oriented force equipped with the Stryker armored vehicle.

Cody said the Army plans to establish 43 of these new modular brigades.

In fact, Cody noted, the Army's first modular brigade, from the 3rd Infantry Division, is starting

to deploy to Iraq. The 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain Divisions also are undergoing transformation, he said.

The Army's recently granted request to temporarily add 30,000 Soldiers to the ranks was made, Cody observed, "so we can prime the pump, restructure the Army while it's moving and get it out of its Cold War structure."

Today, more than 300,000 Soldiers serve overseas in 120 countries, Cody noted, including 116,000 Soldiers deployed in Iraq and 14,000 in Afghanistan.

Cody said about 650,000 Soldiers are on active duty today, including mobilized Guard and Reserve members. However, he explained, there's a force-imbalance involving combat support and combat-service-support units, of which 60 percent are now in the Guard and Reserve.

That imbalance, he said, is making transformation more difficult to achieve and causing force-rotation planners to pull out their hair.

"Until we can get our Army fully modularized so that we can

restructure the combat support and combat-service support and lower the amount of units we have," Cody explained, "we are going to have stress on the force."

Consequently, the active-duty Army has been reducing its logistics, field artillery, air defense, engineer and armor units, Cody said, while increasing the numbers of low-density, high-demand support troops, such as military police, intelligence, civil affairs, psychological operations, in order to round out its new brigade-structured units.

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# Commentary

Thursday, February 7, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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## Riley Roundtable

### This week's question:

What is the most important aspect of being ready for deployment?



"Making sure all the equipment is working. The equipment that we have is old. They need some new equipment, like trucks."

**Staff Sgt. Alma Sealey-Liggins**  
Petroleum supply specialist  
Co. A, 125th Forward Support Bn.  
Home: San Miguelito, Panama



"I'd say being mentally ready. A year can be a long time if you're not ready to go."

**1st Lt. Rich Bendelewski**  
Engineer  
1st Engineer Battalion  
Home: Cuba, N.Y.



"It's very important to know the length of deployment, the country you're going to and who to contact in case of emergencies."

**Spc. Julio Garcia**  
Field Artillery  
1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery  
Home: Providence, Rhode Island



"Ensuring that all of our family needs are taken care of in terms of bills and finances."

**Spc. Richard Binkley**  
Medic  
HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor  
Home: Indianapolis, Ind.



"First of all, making sure your family is all squared away. As far as equipment, making sure all the trucks are running."

**Spc. Sedrick Woodson**  
Small arms and artillery repair  
Co. B, 101st Forward Support Bn.  
Home: Dallas, Texas

### Next week's question:

Which of the Army's core values do you think is most important, and why?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil) or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

**Wayne R. Smetana**  
LACH

It stalks the unwary, looking for those who do not arm themselves in defense against this insidious, relentless, unseen enemy.

Once in its grip, the Soldier may have ears that seem infested with insects ringing or buzzing when there are no such insects around.

After leaving the qualification range, do your ears seem plugged and not hearing?

Do people around you seem to mumble when they speak? Is it difficult to hear speakers in staff meetings?

Do people complain that your car radio or television is just too loud?

Is understanding speech in noise just too difficult?

If you experience any of these, you may be suffering from hearing loss.

Hearing loss is a direct threat to the health of the Soldier. It can incapacitate the individual to the point of becoming a risk to others and mission success on the battlefield.

How can you defend yourself against this dangerous, invisible enemy?

Soldiers in today's Army are exposed to ever increasing hazardous noise at various levels. New advances in technology allow for the creation of weapon systems that are more sophisticated, accurate and noisy than in the past. This increased noise can make hearing on the battlefield from very difficult to impossible.

Most hearing loss occurs in training prior to deployment.



**Lt. Col. Wayne Smetana**

The Army's hearing conservation program at the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Doug Ohlin, Ph.D., presents the situation well, stating, "Hazardous noise pervades our military and industrial environments. The increasing demand for weapon systems with greater speed, range and firepower confounds the problem with higher and more hazardous noise levels."

A Soldier's ability to hear can be assaulted and damaged even before the completion of basic training. Prevention of noise-induced hearing loss in the U.S. Army is predicated on the fact that most hazardous noise exposure over a Soldier's career occurs during such training exercises, not combat.

Here are some simple guidelines to learn about noise-induced hearing loss, your unseen enemy:

- Hearing loss from noise is painless. When noise-induced hearing loss occurs, there is little or no pain. A Soldier won't notice pain from noise until the sound pressure level exceeds 160 decibels, about the level of the M-16 being discharged or the detonation of a hand grenade.
- Hearing loss is progressive.

### Personal safety

## Noise presents an unnoticed enemy

When you are in a noisy environment and the noise becomes less and less bothersome, it's not because your ears have become accustomed to the noise. It's because you're losing your hearing.

Repeatedly exposing yourself to loud noise doesn't exercise your ears and make your hearing stronger. It damages sensitive nerve endings within the inner ear.

• Hearing loss is permanent. Repeated exposure to loud noise will eventually cause irreversible damage to the inner ear.

Although there may be some recovery of hearing following noise exposure, repeated exposures to loud noise levels will eventually cause permanent hearing loss.

• Hearing loss from noise exposure is almost always preventable. The proper use of hearing protection, when exposed to loud noise, will reduce your chances of developing a significant permanent hearing loss.

• Become aggressive and protect yourself. Too often, Soldiers remove their hearing protection during live-fire training exercises and even on qualification ranges to reportedly "hear well."

When hearing protection is worn properly, it will appear the voice of the individual is louder than usual. That experience is common when the ear canals are completely blocked. As a result of this phenomenon, Soldiers who are trying to communicate in a noisy environment should hear each other more clearly.

Research has proven that the ability to hear and understand speech in a noisy environment is much improved when using properly fitted hearing protection than without if you have normal hearing acuity.

• Take an active part in conserving your hearing and the Army's hearing conservation program. Virtually everyone assigned to this post is exposed to loud noise at one time or another.

Weapons fire is not the only noise that can attack your ears at Fort Riley. Operating heavy equipment for hours on end or working in close proximity to or performing maintenance on generators can be damaging.

It is not just the training environment or the battlefield that puts Soldiers at risk. Many of us have noisy hobbies such as listening to loud music, using firearms, woodworking and auto mechanics. In fact, just moving your lawn can be hazardous to your hearing.

What are the benefits of protecting your hearing?

Retired Sgt. Maj. Kevin M. Skelly wrote and summed it up well in the fall 1995 NCO Journal. He said, "If I could change one thing from the past 20 years, it would be the constant ringing in my ears I live with now - all because I didn't wear hearing protection when I should have. The only thing I can change now are the batteries in my hearing aids."

Protecting your hearing now is essential for optimum performance in or around the battlefield. That applies to the individual and to those who depend on each other for survival and to be successful in the complex diversified battlefield of today.

Visit [chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/hcp/NoiseLevels.aspx](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/hcp/NoiseLevels.aspx) to see examples of noise from common military equipment.

### Command message

## Enjoy long weekend, but practice safety

America's presidents have represented many states, held varying occupations and faced difficult challenges. Each president answered the same call, the call to serve the American people.

As we honor our presidents with this extended weekend, keep safety a priority in all of your activities.

While we commemorate the American values these men embodied, I remind you that our Fort Riley Soldiers are involved in the ongoing fight to preserve these same values.

These selfless men and women must be at the forefront of our thoughts this holiday period.

Many of our Soldiers, civilians and their families will use this long weekend to visit friends and relatives. These activities often involve long-distance travel. Leaders at all levels must

emphasize the importance of trip planning, taking scheduled stops to prevent fatigue, use of seatbelts, and not driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Winter continues, therefore, driving conditions can change rapidly.

A vehicle safety check and the winterizing of your vehicle will save time, money and possibly prevent a catastrophic event.

Leaders must inform our Soldiers, civilians and families of the preventive measures they must use to reduce the hazards

associated with winter driving to bring them back to work unharmed.

Honor our presidents; enjoy the extended weekend, and be safe.

**Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy**  
Commanding General  
24th Inf. Div. (Mech)  
and Fort Riley

### Grunt By Wayne Ulden



### FORT RILEY POST

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### What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

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Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas):





## Post news in brief

### Recruiter teams to visit post

A Recruit-the-Recruiter team will brief Soldiers interested in switching to recruiter duty at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. March 29 and March 30 at the Post Retention Office. Soldiers who serve as recruiters earn the Recruiter Badge and sergeants and staff sergeants in a promotable status who earn the Recruiter Ring during their 36-month tour are eligible for meritorious promotions. Recruiters also receive \$450 per month in Special Duty Pay upon assignment.

For more information about recruiting duty, visit [www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter) on the Web or call (502) 626-0105 or DSN: 536-0105.

For information regarding the Fort Riley briefings, contact the Post Retention Office at 856-4215.

### Family training scheduled

Family Readiness Group Leader Basic Training is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 24.

The training is primarily for newly appointed FRG Leaders, but anyone in the FRG may attend.

Class will be held at the Soldier and Family Support Center. Free childcare will be available; parents must bring their child's shot records.

To register for the class and childcare, call 239-9435.

### Fund custodian class offered

Family Readiness Group fund custodian training is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Soldier and Family Support Center. The class will cover basic instruction on maintaining FRG fund records, fund-raising regulations and the appropriate uses of FRG funds.

All FRG fund custodians should attend the class and FRG leaders and commanders are encouraged to attend.

Registration is required and free childcare is available with reservations. Parents must bring the child's shot records.

For more information or to register for the class, call Sonya Brown, Family Readiness Center coordinator, at 239-9435.

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# DoD changing personnel system

By Cindy Colson  
Director, CPAC

Department of Defense is reforming the current civilian personnel system under the National Security Personnel System. The new system will affect nearly 700,000 DoD employees.

Proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register on Feb. 7 for a public comment period which will end March 16, 2005.

NSPS became law on Nov. 24, 2003. It is designed to improve the way the DoD hires, assigns, compensates, and rewards its employees while preserving the core merit principles, veterans' preference and important employee protections and benefits of the current system.

The proposed regulations are the result of 16 months of combined work by the Office of Personnel Management and DoD and include input from DoD employees, supervisors, managers, senior leaders, union representatives and



Cindy Colson

public interest groups. Navy Secretary Gordon England serves as the department's senior executive overseeing the development and design of NSPS. At a press conference on Feb.

10, England stated that "NSPS is a win-win-win system ... a win for our employees, a win for our military and a win for our nation."

Also at the press conference, Acting OPM Director Dan Blair said that NSPS will give DoD employees and managers "greater flexibility to accomplish their vital national security mission."

He also said, "True to the intent of the enabling legislation, the proposed regulations successfully balance the mission requirements of the department and the need to

maintain core civil service principles and values."

After the initial comment period, DoD will meet and confer with employee representatives for 30 days to discuss their views and concerns regarding the proposed regulations and seek common ground. It will report the results and outcome of that meeting to Congress before finalizing the regulations, which should occur this spring.

Once regulations are final, NSPS implementation will be phased in through "Spirals." Spiral One includes up to 300,000 General Schedule/General Managers, U.S.-based employees of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and DoD agencies.

Spiral 1.1, the first phase of Spiral One, will be implemented as early as July 2005 and will include Civilian Human Resources Agency employees.

At Fort Riley, this includes 363 employees who work for the CHRA's Southwest Regional Office, the Southwest Operations

## NSPS highlights

- Simplified pay banding structure allowing flexibility in assigning work
- Pay increases based on performance rather than longevity.
- A performance management system that requires supervisors to set clear expectations linked to DoD's goals and objectives and for which employees will be accountable.
- Streamlined and more responsive hiring processes.
- More efficient, faster procedures for addressing disciplinary and performance problems while protecting employee due process rights.
- A labor relations system that recognizes the national security mission and the need to act swiftly to execute that mission while preserving collective bargaining rights of employees.

Center, the Army Benefits Center-Civilian and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

The remaining two phases of Spiral One will be rolled in over six-month increments. MEDCOM employees will be included in the final phase of Spiral One. The remainder of the eligible workforce will be included in Spiral Two.

Full NSPS implementation will be in the July 2007 to January 2008 timeframe.

DoD employees as well as interested parties are encouraged to visit the NSPS Web site at [www.cpmc.osd.mil/nsps](http://www.cpmc.osd.mil/nsps) to view and comment on the proposed regulations as well learning about the most recent information and announcements regarding NSPS.

## Army deploys resume tool

### Some job seekers may need to 'rebuild'

Civilian Personnel Online  
Special to the Post

The Army deployed the New Army Resume Builder/Answer Tool Jan. 18, and applicants with resumes built on the older tool will need to rebuild their resume once they have been selected for a position via Resumix.

Resumes that were active in the central Resumix database before Jan. 18 will remain active until the person is selected for a position.

To update a resume after being selected for a new job, the applicant can access the old resume and use "cut and paste" computer operations to move old resume information from the ANSWER portion to a new resume.

Updating work experience appears to be easier because the new resume builder has one large block to enter all experience ver-

sus the individual blocks required by the old program.

Users with existing Resume Builder and ANSWER accounts should log in as registered users when first accessing the new Resume Builder/ANSWER application.

The user will be prompted to verify/update their registration information. The person's resume will not appear in the new builder, therefore, it is recommended that the user save a current copy of his or her resume.

Enhancements and features of the new Resume Builder/ANSWER are:

- Army Civilian Resume Builder and ANSWER now load together under one login process.

- Capability to toggle between Resume Builder and ANSWER.

- User friendly and menu driven. No more scrolling down one

long page.

- Enhanced copy, cut and paste capability. Ability to copy from ANSWER and paste into Resume Builder.

- Worksheet formats available for work experience, education and additional information; puts information in proper format.

- New job experience entries will automatically be entered at the beginning of the resume.

- One large box for job experience versus six individual boxes allows for more flexibility.

- Up to 12,000 characters for job experience description.

- Status tracking enhanced. Only last 25 entries displayed, with option to view more.

- Enhanced "Help" Menus available for applicant's use.

To learn more on how to apply for Army jobs, visit CPOL at <http://cpol.army.mil/> on the Web.

## DoD seeks people with language skills

AFPS

WASHINGTON — Uncle Sam wants you — if you speak a foreign language or have the desire and aptitude to learn one.

The Defense Department is on the lookout for people with language skills to support current and future operations, according to Gail McGinn, deputy undersecretary of defense for plans.

And just as important as language skills, she said, is an understanding of other countries' geographies, cultures and people.

When the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, thrust the United States into the war on terror, the department simply didn't have enough linguists fluent in

Arabic or in Dari and Pashtu, the languages of Afghanistan, she said.

To help boost language skills within the military, McGinn said DoD has launched or plans to introduce new initiatives, including:

- Increase foreign language proficiency pay for military linguists from the current high of \$300 a month to a top rate of \$1,000.

- Pay stipends to college students involved in regional and language studies who agree to seek jobs with the U.S. national security establishment.

- Pilot program within the Army encouraging Iraqi Americans to join the Individual Ready Reserve, providing a pool of Arabic linguists, ready when needed.

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## Post news in brief

### Motorcycle classes slated

The Installation Safety Office has scheduled Basic Rider Motorcycle Courses and Experienced Motorcycle Rider Courses for fiscal year 05.

The Basic Rider Course is designed for persons with limited or no experience riding a motorcycle. The training consists of classroom activities and motorcycle driving during a two-day course.

The basic courses are scheduled on weekends from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of the course. The first day, students meet in Room 6 of Building 407. Attendees must wear a long-sleeve shirt, pants, over-the-ankle shoes, and full-fingered gloves. Motorcycles and helmets are provided for the basic rider training.

The Experienced Rider's Course is designed for individuals who are skilled at motorcycle riding, possess a safe operating motorcycle and have a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license.

The course runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on scheduled Fridays. Attendees must bring a safe operating motorcycle and wear a long-sleeve shirt, pants, over-the-ankle shoes, full-fingered gloves, protective eyewear and a helmet. If the helmet has a face shield, the eyewear is optional.

Attendees must also bring their driver's license with the motorcycle endorsement.

The experienced riders course begins in Building 407 and then moves to the riding range.

Both Courses are open to active duty military and their family members, Department of the Army civilians, military retirees, and U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard members working on Fort Riley.

Scheduled dates for the Basic Rider Course are April 2-3, April 16-17, April 30, May 1, May 7-8, May 21-22, June 4-5, June 18-19, July 9-10, July 23-24, Aug. 13-14, Aug. 27-28, Sept. 17-18 and Oct. 1-2.

Scheduled dates for the Experienced Rider Course are April 1, 15 and 29; May 6 and 20; June 3 and 17; July 8 and 22; Aug. 12 and 26; and Sept. 16 and 30.

For enrollment information, contact a unit schools noncommissioned officer or the Installation Safety Office at 239-2334.

September 16, and 30

### Center benefits troops, families

The Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Center now provides service to all severely injured servicemembers and their families. Available worldwide at no cost, regional advocates are available to help with rehabilitation, education and job training.

transportation, family counseling and financial planning.

The center is located in Arlington, Va. The call center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be reached toll free at (888)774-1361.

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Post/Baker

**Liz Sanchez, cook at Rally Point, prepares a batch of hot wings for Rally Point's 10-cent wing night. She and the other workers in the kitchen will take leave or find temporary work hours in other Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities during the renovations at Rally Point.**

## Defense agency eliminates paperwork backlog

### Applications for combat-related benefits for disabled flow on faster track

By Eric W. Cramer

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — When military retiree applications for Combat Related Service Compensation will now be processed within 30 days of receipt, now that a backlog of nearly 14,000 applications has been cleared.

Col. John Sackett, chief of the CRSC division of Army Human Resources Command's Physical Disabilities Agency, said his office was flooded with applications when the benefit began in June 2003.

"We had 11,000 applications in the first months," he said. "We had 16,000 between June and

August of 2003. That was a problem because we didn't exist before June 1. We were literally pushing machinery in the door then."

Sackett said the backlog started to reduce beginning in August 2004, when CRSC division added more staff.

"We've been trying to tackle the backlog all along," Sackett said, "but we cleared it by adding staff. We went from a staff of 10 to 22, 35 and ultimately 70."

He said most of the staff came from Booz Allen Hamilton, a business accounting firm hired to assist the CRSC program.

"Now we're making a concerted outreach and trying to notify everyone that might be eligible

## Wings fly away – a while

### Renovations upgrade kitchen fire protection

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

A popular family and after-work attraction at Fort Riley's Rally Point – 10-cent wing night – will be unavailable for about a month.

Rally Point will halt its kitchen service for at least 30 days while contractors install a new fire suppression system. The new system will bring the restaurant's kitchen up to fire protection code, said Rally Point General Manager Mike Steffens.

Other services at Rally Point will be open as usual, he added.

More than 250 people come to Rally Point every Wednesday to

eat as many chicken wings as they want for 10 cents each, Steffens said. "By 8 p.m. you can't find a seat in the place," he claimed.

"I think this is the biggest event on post. From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. we are very busy, but after 8 p.m., we ask everyone under the age of 18 to leave and our disc jockey starts playing music for the older crowd," Steffens said.

Steffens said people have been coming to Rally Point for 10-cent wings since 2003.

Herb Abel, director of Fort Riley's Directorate of Environment and Safety, and Helen Gough, deputy garrison commander, joined a group of friends at the restaurant recently for some

socializing.

"I come here about once or twice a month. This is a good after-work activity," he said.

Tasha Hernandez, an Army spouse, brings her two teenage children to Rally Point every Wednesday. "They have fun, play pool and eat a lot of chicken," she said.

Jessica Burgett, another Rally Point patron and Army spouse, said, "I didn't know the kitchen was closing. I wish we knew about it sooner."

Steffens said the work is scheduled for completion on March 9. Until then, only Rally Point's bar and dance club will be open for business.

for the benefit," Sackett said.

The CRSC benefit is for military retirees, active or reserve, who have 20 years or more of service and a Veteran's Administration disability rating of 10 percent or more. Applicants must be entitled to retired pay offset by VA disability payments. In other words, they must have a VA waiver.

To receive the benefit, a retiree must have a disability that is combat related, but the injuries don't necessarily need to have actually happened in combat.

"The key word is 'related.' We're more interested in how you were injured," he said. "If you were training to go to combat,

that's related to combat. I've had applicants bring in stack after stack of paper showing me what their disability is, but what I need is how they became disabled."

Officially, CRSC defines "combat related" disabilities as those received:

- As a result of armed conflict;
- While engaged in hazardous service such as flight, diving or parachute duty;
- Received in the performance of duty under conditions simulating war; or
- Received through instrumentality of war, such as combat vehicles, weapons or Agent Orange.

Sackett said the lifetime monthly benefit is available

retroactively to the program's inception in June 2003.

"We've issued checks of \$45,000 and \$50,000 to some retirees, because the benefit is retroactive," he said.

For more information about the CRSC benefit, or to determine eligibility, retirees should visit the CRSC Web site at [www.crsc.army.mil](http://www.crsc.army.mil).

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# 'Dreadnaughts' move to forward location

By Phil LaCasse

2nd Bn., 34th Armor, SI

The 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, completed its move from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to Forward Operating Base Gabe in north-central Iraq's Diyala Feb. 12.

The battalion's contingent of more than 500 Soldiers and 200 vehicles made up the trail element of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and completed the 400-mile journey without a vehicle accident or injury.

Planning and preparation for the move began immediately after the battalion arrived in Kuwait.

"The road march was going to be our first trip into potentially hostile territory, and we wanted to make sure we did it right," said Capt. Mike Dorschner of Newton, Mass. "We meticulously planned and rehearsed this operation to ensure that Soldiers at all levels were fully prepared." Dorschner is a member of the battalion's S3 staff and was one of the primary planners for the move.

The first component of the mission planning was a detailed mission analysis that included satellite imagery of the route; identification of bridges, overpasses, major intersections and sharp turns in the road that might be of concern; and pattern analysis of enemy activity that included dates and locations along the route for all incidents of contact with improvised explosive devices, vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, small-arms fire and indirect fire.



Report from  
Iraqi Freedom

"We do pattern analysis to note consistencies in the enemy activity so that we are able to respond," said 1st Lt. Raul Rocha of Yuma, Ariz. Rocha serves as the battalion's tactical intelligence officer. His duties include pattern analysis, war-gaming possible enemy courses of action and tactical questioning of detainees.

The entire battalion did not, however, make the trip from Camp Buehring to FOB Gabe together. Because it is not efficient to drive tracked vehicles hundreds of miles, the battalion's M1A1 main battle tanks, M88 recovery vehicles, mortar tracks and M113-type armored personnel carriers were moved on Heavy Equipment Tactical Transports provided by a transportation company of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Each company created a detailed list containing a by-name roster of Soldiers who would be on each vehicle. Battalion planners then used that list to identify which vehicles would go in each of three convoys, ensuring that each convoy had sufficient quantities of gun trucks, medical assets and maintenance recovery capability.

After the planning cycle, the

"Dreadnaughts" engaged in a thorough regimen of inspections and rehearsals designed to prepare every Soldier to the maximum possible extent for the journey north.

On the morning of Feb. 5, every wheeled vehicle that would take part in the road march was checked during a battalion-level inspection. These "station checks" involved detailed inspections in the areas of maintenance, communication capability and weapons.

Company master gunners, assisted by the battalion master gunner, tested every gunner on his or her ability to clear, load, operate and perform immediate action on his or her crew-served weapon. Immediate action is the action a Soldier takes when a weapon malfunctions.

A senior mechanic got on every vehicle and verified the crew-level maintenance checks the crew had performed, as well as identifying and correcting new faults.

Finally, representatives from the battalion's signal staff got on every vehicle and verified that the communication systems were working properly.

Leaders at all levels conducted convoy rehearsals that included actions taken upon contact, actions taken upon identifying an IED, actions taken after an IED explosion, actions taken when a vehicle breaks down and medical evacuation procedures.

Leaders also conducted a reconnaissance of the route as far north as the Kuwait-Iraq border.



2nd Bn., 34th Armor/LaCasse  
Spec. Kevin Arnold (left) of Junction City inspects the engine on a Humvee Feb. 5 as part of the station checks done in preparation for the road march into Iraq. Pfc. Ramzi Jawan (center) of Glendale Heights, Ill., and Pfc. Kevin Gibson of Indianapolis, Ind., observe. Arnold is a member of HHC, Maintenance Platoon. Jawan and Gibson are members of the battalion's Scout Platoon.

The ground assault convoy of wheeled vehicles, referred to by Soldiers as the "GAC," departed Camp Buehring and traveled through the night of Feb. 7 and the following day until they reached their destination. They made stops for maintenance and rest at planned intervals throughout the 39-hour trip.

"The roll through the southern part of Iraq was pretty dry. As we got farther north, I noticed more vegetation and more livestock," said Spec. Shawn Maywald of

Phoenix, Ariz. "I didn't expect to see lots of palm trees and vegetation."

Maywald serves as a petroleum supply specialist in the battalion's support platoon and was a truck commander on a fueller during the ground convoy.

A day before the ground assault convoy departed, the battalion's tank crews loaded their tanks on HETTs and departed for FOB Warhorse. Tank crews rode with their vehicles in order to provide security with the crew served

weapons mounted on the tanks while the crews of the lighter M113-series armored personnel carriers did not accompany their vehicles. Instead, they flew via intra-theater air.

The convoy of HETTs arrived at FOB Warhorse Feb. 10.

"We were on the road for a total of six days," said Spec. Jared Siegel of Wooster, Ohio. Siegel is a member of Company C and is assigned as a loader on tank C-23.

Living in the tanks "is rather cramped," said Pfc. James Johnson, also assigned to Co. C. "I spent most of the time in the driver's hole." Johnson hails from Abilene, Texas, and serves as the driver for tank C-24.

The Soldiers not traveling in the GAC or riding in their tanks, which included elements from the battalion's mortar platoon, medic platoon, fire support element, maintenance team and staff, flew via intra-theater air from Camp Buehring to FOB Warhorse in Iraq. At FOB Warhorse, these Soldiers linked up with their vehicles and drove them in a combat patrol to FOB Gabe.

The trip was not without enemy contact, but the Soldiers responded in accordance with their training, and there were no casualties.

"All our detailed planning, countless rehearsals and hard work paid off," said Lt. Col. Oscar Hall IV, battalion commander. "We successfully transported some 200 vehicles over 450 miles without a single accident, and every vehicle except for two made it under its own power."

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# 3rd Brigade draws, tests new combat gear

By Matthew Wester  
100th MPAD

CAMP BLUEHRING, Kuwait – Rows of M1A1 Abrams tanks positioned on a firing line let their main guns blaze, firing at targets down range as Kuwaiti sand swirled around them.

The tanks belong to 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, part of the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade, known as the "Bulldogs."

Members of the brigade and its supporting units, such as the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Irwin, Calif., and the 245th Military Intelligence Company of the Oklahoma National Guard, received and tested new vehicles, weapons and gear, including tanks, M-16 rifles and personal equipment this month.

"This is to get us ready for combat and get our people aligned with their equipment before they

go across the border," said Col. David Bishop, 3rd Brigade commander.

The "Bulldog Brigade" brought several tanks with them from Fort Riley but also received Army Pre-positioned Stock tanks in Kuwait. They rolled these vehicles to ranges near Camp Bluehring to test fire and check the accuracy and reliability of their weapons systems.

The tank crews loaded and fired live 120 mm rounds through the main tube and fired .50 caliber machine guns mounted on the tanks.

In addition to the M1A1s, Soldiers tried out some smaller, but equally important weapons.

Members of the 1st Sgdn., 11th ACR, test fired their new M-16 rifles under sandy desert conditions.

"It will fire fine if you keep the sand out of it," said Staff Sgt. Richard Chandler of squadron's



Troop. He served with the 1st Infantry Division during his previous combat tour in Iraq.

"I think this is great," said Sgt. John J. Ferry, an M1A1 tank mechanic for Troop B. "This is the first new rifle I've gotten in the Army."

At another range a few miles away, Soldiers with the 70th Engineer Battalion tested the M-68 Aimpoint scopes they were given to use during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We're gonna be confirming the zero on our red-dot scopes," said Pfc. Jacob A. Crown, a com-

bat engineer with Company A. "We're getting confidence in the weapons before we roll into Iraq," he said.

The 3rd Brigade Soldiers and Soldiers in supporting units also received personal equipment as part of the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative.

"What we're doing here is providing Soldiers with the equipment they would normally have to buy for themselves," said Jose Martinez-Ortiz, a fielding specialist for MPRI, the company that distributes RFI supplies to the Army.

The "Bulldogs" received various pieces of equipment and clothing specially designed and tested for use in the desert, such as gloves, boots, Wiley X goggles and moisture-wicking T-shirts, Martinez-Ortiz said. "These T-shirts should last a year in the desert," he said.

"The equipment I've seen here is a lot more durable than other equipment I've seen," said Spc. Jerry D. Carmichael, a supply specialist with Battery A, 4th

Battalion, 1st Field Artillery.

Carmichael added that he thinks Soldiers are less likely to come to him with broken gear because the RFI items issued will last.

In addition to durability, some of the new supplies, such as the Camelbak hydration system, were popular with Soldiers because of their convenience and efficiency.

"With the Camelbak, the water is just there," said Spc. Mark B. Payne, a fire support specialist with Troop C of the 1st Sgdn. "Instead of having to dig a canteen out, you stick the straw in your mouth and there it is," he said.

"The Camelbak is important," said 1st Lt. Troy E. Papanicolaous, a fire support officer for 1st Sgdn's Troop Golf troop. "We can't stress hydration enough in this environment."

Papanicolaous also liked the protection the new Advanced Combat Helmet offered. The new helmet replaces the standard Kevlar helmet.

"It has better ballistics and bet-

ter protection all the way around, and I'm all about that," he said.

"It is lighter weight, supposed to be better-fitting, and I'm told it absorbs shock better," said Sgt. Allen J. Frahm, a team leader for Company C of the 70th Eng. Bn.

Frahm appreciates being fully equipped for his brigade's upcoming mission in Iraq. "It shows the Army is thinking about the Soldier, knowing the kind of conditions we're going into," he said.



Staff Sgt. Richard Chandler of Troop B, 1st Sgdn., 11th ACR, test fires his new M-16 rifle at a range near Camp Bluehring, Kuwait. 100th MPAD/Wester

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# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Thursday, February 17, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

## Sports news in brief

### Sports, pools staffs set events

Upcoming events and programs sponsored by the Fort Riley Sports Office and post pools include:

**Feb. 18** – 7 to 10 p.m., Friday Family Fun Night at Long Fitness Center pool. Cost is \$5 per family and \$1 per guest, passes not included.

**Feb. 21 and 24** – 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., cardio pump aerobics class at King Field House.

**Feb. 23** – 9 to 11 a.m., Mommy & Me Time at Long Fitness Center pool. Cost is \$2 per family.

For more information, call 239-2813.

### Eagle viewing trip planned

A free bald eagle watching tour is planned on Fort Riley from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 19. This is an outside event, so participants should wear warm clothes. Participants are encouraged to bring their cameras, video cameras and field glasses to help view these spectacular birds and preserve memories of the trip.

Call the Outdoor Recreation Center at (785) 239-2363 for more information and to register for the tour.

### Center offers archery class

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center, 9011 Rifle Range Road, will offer an archery familiarization class at its range on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. March 8 through April 7. Cost for each class attended is \$2, and attendance can be in those classes that fit the individual's schedule.

An archery top gun competition is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 9.

For more information, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

### Hunters can enter contest

All hunters harvesting turkey in the hunting areas of Fort Riley can enter the 2005 Longest Turkey Beard Contest sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Registration for the contest will be March 17 through April 1. Spring turkey hunting season is April 13 through May. The youth season for hunters 16 and younger is April 8-10.

Hunters who want to enter the contest can sign up at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011, Rifle Range Road. Cost is \$15 per person. The number of participants in the contest will determine the prizes to be awarded in three categories: typical, non-typical and youth.

For more information about the contest and about hunting on Fort Riley, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

### Registration open for soccer

Spring Soccer Registration, for kindergarten through 8th grade, will be Feb. 22 through March 11. Registration will be held at Central Registration, Building 6620, from noon to 5 p.m. on a walk-in basis. Current sports physicals are required at registration. For more information, contact the youth sports director at 239-9223, or Central Registration at 239-4847.

## Army's No. 1 runs fifth fastest

Army News Service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Joe Nemecek posted the fifth fastest speed Feb. 13 in Daytona 500 qualifying action.

Nemecek's No. 01 U.S. Army Chevrolet toured Daytona International Speedway's 2.5-mile trioval in 47.914 seconds at 187.837 miles per hour.

That Sunday's pole qualifying locked in the fastest two qualifiers

for the Daytona 500 (Feb. 20) and determined the starting fields for the Feb. 17 150-mile qualifying races.

It was the fifth straight time that Nemecek's qualifying speed placed him in the top 10 at superspeedway events. He had a 4.75 qualifying average at the four superspeedway races in 2004.

"That was a good lap and that was all we had," said Nemecek. "But deep down we came here

with a goal of taking the pole. Our expectations were high, but that's how confident this U.S. Army team is."

Pole Day qualifying turned into a speedfest for Nemecek and his two MB2 teammates – Scott Riggs (Valvoline Chevrolet) and Boris Said (CENTRIX Financial Chevrolet).

Riggs was right behind Nemecek with the sixth fastest speed and Said was close by with

the 11th fastest mark.

"This is as close as you can get to building racecars," said Nemecek.

"I think we have eight speedway cars and they all run just about identically in testing. That's a pretty good feat for those guys back at the shop."

"I'd also like to thank Hendrick Motorsports for the engines. The motors run strong and that makes our job a lot easier. A solid team

effort all the way around," he said.

The MB2/MBV/MB Sutton trio will line up third (Nemecek), fourth (Riggs) and fifth (Said) in the second Gatorade Duel 150 qualifying race Feb. 17.

The twin qualifying races will determine the starting order for the Daytona 500.

Nemecek was boxed in for the

See Nemecek, Page 12

## Flying high

Gregory Brockman (25) of 10th ASOS goes up for a shot against HHC, 24th Inf. Div., defenders Charles Williams (21) and Warren Williams (33) during a Southern League company level basketball game Feb. 9 at King Field House. Post/Meek



## Infantry grounds Airmen

By Austin Meek

Staff writer

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), defeated 10th Air Support Operations Squadron 54-49 in Southern League company level basketball action Feb. 9 at King Field House.

The Airmen led 23-22 at halftime but could not contain HHC's Warren Williams in the second half. Williams nailed four 3-

pointers after the intermission and finished with a game-high 22 points.

"(Williams) gave us some good shooting down the stretch," said HHC Coach Bryan Johnson. "That made the difference."

Gregory Brockman led the Airmen in scoring with 18 points. Teammate Benjamin Pool added 15.

"Our defense didn't hold up like it should have," said 10th ASOS Coach Mars Hinton. "We let them have too many open shots in the second half."

## Southern Standings

(as of Feb. 9)

Team	W	L
10th ASOS	3	4
HHC, 24th ID	4	1
USA MEDDAC	4	2
15th PSB	0	7
172nd Chemical	5	1
HHC, 1st Eng Bn	0	5
Touch of Grey	5	2
15th Finance	3	3
523rd MPs	3	2

## Troopers take three Eisenhower win comes hard

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Three Fort Riley Middle School Trooper basketball teams defeated their Manhattan Eisenhower Middle School opponents on the Troopers' court Feb. 10. The Troopers' A team won 35-27, the C team won 27-13 and the D team won 30-17. The Troopers' B team lost 30-25.

After a poor first quarter, the Troopers' offense clicked with 12 points in the second period, eight in the third and 11 in the final

stanza, succumbing to Eisenhower's offense by a single point in third-period play.

Andy Birchmeier led Trooper scoring with 12 points. Teammate Collin Reese trailed closely with nine points for Fort Riley. Quentin Kimura netted six with two treys for the home team.

Forika McDougald hit for four, Armon Walker added two more and Devin Dickens and Chris Toombs rounded out Trooper scoring with a free throw apiece. The C team defense smothered

See Troopers, Page 12



Fort Riley Middle School Trooper Michael Wilkerson dribbles around a Northern Hills player during a C team game Feb. 9 at the Troopers' court. Northern Hills defeated the home team 54-19. Post/Meek

See Point AD, Page 12





Post/Blackman

Kansas State University Wildcat fans high-five each other and cheer as their team worries the visiting University of Kansas Jayhawks with a 14-point rally Feb. 9.

## Fans exuberant despite loss to KU; teams to face Buffaloes at Bramlage

### Staff report

Shooting 53 percent from the field, the No. 3 Jayhawks stretched their winning streak against unranked K-State to 29 straight wins and an embarrassing 22 straight in the Wildcats' house with a 74-65 win Feb. 9.

Although the Wildcats cut a 17-point Jayhawk lead to four with less than four minutes on the clock, KU sophomore J.R. Giddens hit a big one from outside, crumbling K-State's momentum, which they never got back.

K-State men's and women's basketball teams are in action at home Feb. 19. The men take on Oklahoma at 12:30 p.m. and the women play Colorado at 6 p.m.

This is the first match-up for the two men's teams this season. The No. 18 Sooners haven't

faired well on the road, winning just two of their five away games. The team comes to K-State after a recent road loss against Oklahoma State and an overtime upset at Missouri.

Led by senior forward Jeremiah Massey and sophomore guard Fred Peete, the Wildcats return to Bramlage Coliseum after taking on Iowa State Feb. 15.

After suffering two recent home game losses to Colorado and Kansas, the Wildcats will look for their first home win since Jan. 26.

The No. 16 women's team will meet Colorado for the second time this season.

K-State won its first match-up 81-70 against the Buffaloes Jan. 29. Wildcat senior forward Kendra Wecker scored 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while

sophomore guard/forward Claire Coggins added a career-high 25 points in that game.

Colorado is one of the youngest teams in the league with six underclassmen on the 11-player roster. The Buffs return only one starter from last year's NCAA Tournament squad.

Tickets for the men's game are \$15. Tickets for the women's game are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2 through high school and for seniors ages 65 and older. They may be purchased by calling 1-800-221-CATS or at the stadium on game day. Ticket offices open one hour before tip-off.

*Editor's note: Gary Skidmore, command information officer, and April Blackmon, staff writer, contributed to this report.*

## Troopers

continued from page 11

the visiting Manhattan team for goose eggs in the first and third periods while the offense recovered from a poor second-period showing to dominate the court the entire second half.

Chris Jackson-Smith took top scoring honors for the Troopers with seven points, just one point ahead of teammate Michael Wilkerson.

Justin Ramos and Larry Mitchell added five each to the Troopers' score and Antonia Baskin finished up the tally with four points of his own.

Manhattan's D team managed no more than six points in any one period — that six coming in the

third quarter to match Fort Riley's offensive effort.

The Troopers' offense slumped for only three points in the second period, but regained its eye with a 12-point final period effort.

George Goring led Trooper scoring with seven points, followed by Scott Jeffreys with five, Doni Hancock and Jeremy Herman with four, Ryan Alby with three, Jackson-Smith, Xavier Matthews and Paul Freeman with two each and William Troy with a free throw.

The Troopers' B team put together a consistent offensive game, scoring five each in the first and second quarters, nine in the

third and six in the final period.

Their defense slipped a little in the second and third periods, allowing Manhattan Eisenhower to score 12 and 10 points respectively.

The visitors managed only four points in each of the first and final quarters.

Toombs and Cody Waterman tied for top scoring honors for the Troopers with five points each.

Zach Mann and Walker scored four apiece, followed by Thomas Miskevish, Cameron Edwards and Randy Moss with two each.

Matthews hit a free throw for one point to round out Trooper scoring.

## Nemechek

continued from page 11

majority of the Feb. 12 nighttime Bud Shootout at Daytona International Speedway and the result was an 11th-place finish for the U.S. Army driver.

The 70-lap, 175-mile event won by Jimmie Johnson was an invitational race for 2004 pole winners and former Bud Shootout champions. The lineup consisted of 20 drivers.

In the first race of the season for the National Hot Rod Association in Pomona, Calif., Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher took a second-round loss Feb. 13 in the CARQUEST Auto Parts Winter Nationals.

The defending NHRA POW-ERade Top Fuel world champion, who had qualified No. 1, smoked the tires against Doug Herbert and

his day was done early.

Now holding the fifth-place spot in the Top Fuel point standings, Schumacher will next head for Checker Schuck's Kragen NHRA Nationals at Firebird International Raceway outside of Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 24-27.

*Editor's note: Information provided by David Ferroni and Chris Dirato.*

## Point AD

continued from page 11

officiating football with a high school friend, federal judge Mark Jacobs, they talked about sports administration and he recommended Anderson for a job at Stanford.

He would serve four years with the San Francisco Education Fund before he applied for a job at Stanford in 1993 and has never looked back.

Since taking over as West Point athletic director Jan. 18, the 1979 San Francisco State University graduate has found the transition to be seamless because of the West Point community.

"I've felt welcomed since day one. This is truly family and to be accepted into the (academy) family the way I have been - I can't thank them enough," Anderson said. "The community is making

me feel that I've always been a part of this, which makes the transition easier.

"I have a sense of pride and loyalty to the academy and I will put my best foot forward because of my position and the history of this place," Anderson added.

A six-man panel went through an intense interview process to find the right man to replace former AD Rick Greenspan, who is now AD at Indiana University, and Anderson shined over seven other finalists, many of whom were West Point graduates.

"We had a strong field of applicants that included West Point graduates, career Army officers and professionals in sports administration," said U. S. Military Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox Jr. "Among

those talented prospects, we were looking for the right fit in terms of character, leadership, experience and vision. Kevin emerged as the best all-around candidate."

The overseer of 25 Division I sports, Anderson begins his tenure as the Army football team reverts back to independent status after seven less than spectacular seasons in Conference USA. Army football fans are looking forward to a more successful run under his and Bobby Ross' guidance.

"We looked at our scheduling, how we schedule and determined to play teams with a profile more like the academy," Anderson said. "We (Bobby Ross and I) talked strategy and I think we both believe we're on schedule and there's no doubt we believe that we will continue to progress."

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# Fort Riley Community Life

Thursday, February 17, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

## Community news briefly

### Riley's to host retro dance

Riley's Conference Center will host a Retro Flashback Dance on from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. beginning Feb. 25. Admission is \$5, which opens the door to a boogie woogie night as a DJ spins the tunes, sets the table with light hors d'oeuvres from 10 p.m. to midnight and offers a cash bar throughout the event.

Dancers are encouraged to relive the 1970s by wearing their bell-bottoms and ironing their hair straight or step back to the 1980s by sliding into their Calvin's and leg warmers and sporting "big hair."

For more information, call Riley's Conference Center at (785) 784-1000.

### Chaplains seek nursery help

The Fort Riley's Chaplain's Office is accepting bids to work in a nursery setting during various chapel sponsored programs. Workers must be at least 18 years old.

Workers are allowed to bring one of their own children under age 5 to the nursery during the time they are scheduled to work.

Openings exist for Sunday and Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings and for special events. Applicants must bid on the schedule they would like work and on how much they would like to be paid.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Leslie Setzer Monday through Friday at 239-3557.

### Crafts center slates classes

Feb. 19 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3D buildings in glass

Feb. 23 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., stained glass

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

### Teen Center plans activities

Feb. 18 - 7 to 10 p.m., pool party at Long Fitness Center

Feb. 19 - 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., middle school lock-in

Feb. 25 - 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance

Feb. 26 - 6 to 9 p.m., family potluck dinner

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

### Youth Services sets activities

Feb. 26 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free childcare for deployed Soldier's kids

For more information, call 239-9173

### BOSS sets activities

Feb. 23 - Free ski trip to Weston, Mo.

For more information, call 239-8147.

### Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.



Ledia King, a kindergartner at Ware Elementary School, shows her classmates the proper brushing technique.

## DENTAC: Say, 'Ahh'

### Specialists take message to students

By Jay Baker  
Public affairs intern

About half the kindergartners at Ware Elementary School show one or more visible cavities when they open their mouths, according to dental hygienists at Fort Riley's Dental Activity.

DENTAC sent two hygienists and three dental assistants to the school Feb. 10 to educate the students on the importance of proper

dental hygiene.

"The point of our being here is to provide oral health education. February is Dental Health Month," said Spc. Adriana Lopez, a dental hygienist.

DENTAC used an animated video presentation to cover oral health topics, such as eating the right foods, daily flossing and cavity prevention. The team tested the children's comprehension with a quiz after the video. Every child's hand went up when Lopez

asked, "How do you remove the invisible germs from your teeth?"

"Cavities and gingivitis are hard to explain to children, but I explained it as an infection in the teeth," Lopez said. "I told them a fluoride rinse will help remove bacteria, too," she added.

In the classrooms, the hygiene team conducted dental screenings. They looked in every child's mouth and noted visible cavities

See Teeth, Page 15

## Post's past



Directorate of Environment and Safety archaeologist Scott Hall (left) explains the history behind artifacts found on post to members of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley during the society's meeting Feb. 9. Looking over the artifacts are Diane Hardy (center) and Society President Alma Gutierrez (second from right).

## Society sees recovered artifacts

By Jay Baker  
Public affairs intern

People interested in preserving Fort Riley's history saw a 150-year-old whiskey flask, a Soldier's sword sheath and other items during the monthly membership meeting of the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley Feb. 9.

Kansas State University archaeology students unearthed these artifacts and more than 35,000 other pieces of history 20 years ago in a 20-foot-deep hold excavated near the U.S. Cavalry Museum, once the post hospital.

"The pit was part of a privy used by the old post hospital from 1857 to 1867.

Apparently, they just dumped these

things in the latrine pit instead of moving them to the new location," said Scott Hall, an archaeologist with the Directorate of Environment and Safety, where HASFR conducted its February meeting.

DES employees still find relics on Fort Riley during land surveys they conduct

See Society, Page 15

## Dish network spreads defense channel

### Subscribers view for free

AFPS

WASHINGTON - Less than a year after its May 14 debut, the Pentagon Channel is taking to the stars - more precisely, the Pentagon Channel is taking to EchoStar Communications.

EchoStar's Dish Network satellite TV service announced it is offering the Pentagon Channel to its more than 11 million viewers.

Programming will be distributed 24 hours a day, seven days a week as part of Dish Network's public interest channels. This means the programming will be provided at no cost to customers.

"We appreciate Dish Network's decision to carry the new Pentagon Channel on their satellite TV system," said Defense Department spokesman Larry Di Rita.

Dish customers will be able to keep current with military news and information, including DoD news briefings, military news, interviews with top defense officials and short stories about the work of military people.

The network also will include scheduled programming:

- "Around the Services," a look at what's going on at each branch of the military;

- "Studio Five," which showcases conversations with DoD leaders; and

- "Focus on the Force," which highlights military missions, such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Marriage and military life

## Columnist answers questions about relationships

Editor's note: With this issue of the Post, we begin publishing occasional columns dealing with marriage and military life written by an award-winning retired Navy chaplain. Comments regarding this column can be sent to the editor at [mike.herone-mus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.herone-mus@riley.army.mil).

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka  
Retired Navy Chaplain

Dear Gene-Thomas, We have only been married two months and my husband will soon be deploying to Iraq. I don't want the deployment to weaken our love for one another. Any recommendations?

Dear Melissa,

While deployments can weaken some relationships, they can also help other couples appreciate each other all the more. Dating and married partners should employ personal, effective and economical ways of communicating with one another during long periods of separation. Options vary from location to location (e.g., e-mail, calling cards, video teleconferencing or authorized overseas DSN access to CONUS commands within local calling distance to relatives).

The most common and economical way of communicating today is via e-mail. Studies have shown that e-mail boosts morale,

increases confidence and self-assuredness throughout the separation, provides greater emotional connectedness between military personnel and their loved ones and eases reunion and reintegra-

tion that historically is the most challenging phase of deployments.

While e-mail is faster and more economical than the postal service, some couples feel that

### About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain with more than 30 years pastoral and military experience. He wrote "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military" and received the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award from the secretary of the Navy for literary achievement and inspirational leadership. If you have a question, write to Gene-Thomas Gomulka at [letters@plaintec.net](mailto:letters@plaintec.net) on the Web.



Gene-Thomas Gomulka

handwritten letters or cards on anniversaries and special occasions are more meaningful and appreciated than electronic communications.

Operational security may at times preclude sending or receiving postal or electronic mail. Hence, the lack of communication should not be construed as a lack of love. A number of valid reasons may exist why your partner may be out of touch for a period of time.

If there is a serious problem, you can ordinarily expect to receive an American Red Cross message or to be contacted by a command representative. Prior to deployments, family members

See Answers, Page 15





## Community news briefly

### Spouses plan club activity

The Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses' Club plans a crafts and chocolate night beginning at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City. Members and prospective members can attend. For more information, call the club's president, Sherri Miller, at 770-9219, or send her e-mail at [escpresident@hotmail.com](mailto:escpresident@hotmail.com).

### Chapel needs musicians

The contemporary Protestant worship service is in need of a pianist, bass player and acoustic guitar player for its Sunday morning services in Kapauu Chapel on Custer Hill. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings. Anyone interested should call Juanita Boudreaux at 784-2918.

### Youth services seeks teachers

Instructors are needed for dance, violin, voice, guitar, martial arts and any other form of instructional programming someone is interested in teaching. Instructors also are needed to teach week-long summer camps.

For more information, contact the Instructional Programs Specialist at (785) 239-4723 or Central Registration at (785) 239-4847.

### Baby-sitting class offered

The Red Cross schedules a baby-sitting course the third Saturday each month in Building 5800. The next class will be Feb. 19. Cost is \$10. Enrollees must be 11 years old or older. All youth age 12 to 18 years old who successfully complete the course qualify for placement on the Fort Riley Baby-sitting Referral List, if they have parental permission to do so. For more information, call 239-5077 or 239-4847.

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Tara Ortiz, a Tax Center representative, receives a sing-a-gram from her friends at Information, Ticketing and Registration, her former workplace. Delivering the Valentine's Day wish were costumed volunteers of the Fort Riley Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers' organization.

## Sing-a-grams surprise 'sweethearts' with greetings

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

A snowman, a grouch, a lion, a bear and a gorilla helped raise more than \$2,000 for single Soldiers at Fort Riley.

The costumed members of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers volunteered to deliver Valentine sing-a-grams and gifts to more than 75 people on- and off-post Feb. 10 and 11.

The costumes added some surprise to the

holiday messages, said Spc. Dwayne Allen, BOSS president.

The volunteers delivered the purchased messages and gifts mostly to offices on post, surprising everyone with their singing and dancing.

The annual sing-a-grams activity raises money for BOSS programs. All the proceeds go into the post's program and are used to offset the costs of activities for single Soldiers.

Last year, fund-raising programs reduced

the costs of BOSS's cruise to Mexico by \$100 per person, said Teresa Mayes, manager of the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office at Fort Riley.

Mayes said BOSS has offered sing-a-grams for at least the past 17 years. She supports the BOSS program by setting up tours and providing a working area for the organization in the ITR office.

BOSS plans a cruise and a trip to Disney World and Worlds of Fun this year, Mayes said.

## Museum fosters child growth

By Tina Deines

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN — Learning about art at a young age may help children grasp other educational concepts more easily, said Kathrine Schlageck of the Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University.

That is why the museum offers art classes for children, ages 2 to 6.

Schlageck said children can learn skills for math (rhythm, patterns and order), colors and shapes (symbol sets), and word making (putting shapes together to make objects), from participating in art.

Schlageck is the education and public services supervisor at the museum. Although she has been in this position for 10 years, she said early childhood has only recently become a focus in their audience development.

Art also fosters children's creativity, Schlageck said. "This is probably the age when children are the most creative," she said.

She said this also is an important time for children to learn basic skills, such as using scissors and glue.

A typical class at the museum lasts one hour. Children hear a story from a book, spend time in the galleries looking at art and participate in an activity such as a song or dance. The class ends with an art project.

Workshops are limited to 12 children and there is a supplies cost of \$3. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the museum at (785) 532-7718.

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*Post/Baker*  
Gabriel Eads, a kindergartner at Ware Elementary School, learns how to floss his teeth with the help of DENTAC dental hygienist Spc. Adriana Lopez. She taught the children how to go back and forth like a seesaw and to hug the tooth with the floss.

## Teeth continued from page 13

on a referral sheet. About half the children examined had at least on visible cavity and chances are they have others that can't be seen without x-rays, Lopez said.

Pfc. Jaime Tobon, a dental assistant, said, "I remember seeing children in Germany who were wearing crowns at the age of two on their teeth. That's a traumatic thing, and it keeps them from the dentists later on."

Getting to children early and preventing problems is the best way to help children, Tobon said. DENTAC plans to provide in-school screenings to all children on post in grades kindergarten through fifth grade during their Dental Health Month campaign.



*Post/Baker*  
Bryant Bradford, a kindergartner at Ware Elementary School, receives an in-school dental screening by a DENTAC hygienist Feb. 10. DENTAC plans to go out to all on-post elementary schools during Children's Dental Health Month.

## Dental Month Schedule

*Feb. 17 – Custer Hill Elementary School from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Jefferson Elementary School from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*  
*Feb. 22 – Morris Hill Elementary School at 8:30 a.m.*  
*Feb. 23 – Ware Elementary School at 8:30 a.m.*  
*Feb. 28 – Fort Riley Elementary School all day.*

## Answers continued from page 13

should be well-informed about how to contact their military loved ones in cases of emergency.

The frequency of communications during deployments will vary according to circumstances and events at home and with the deployed command. Family responsibilities, particularly if there are small children at home, can affect the ability of a person to communicate as much as he or she might like. Some partners have more free time to communicate than others.

Finally, partners should not write while they are angry. While communications during extended periods of separation can enhance relationships, they also have the potential to weaken relationships. So, if you or your partner ever become upset, calm down and give more thought to a particular matter before pushing the "send" button or mailing the letter.

## Community news briefly

### Storytime tells about friends

Storytime at the Post Library Feb. 19, will be "Don't Need Friends." This is the story of two junkyard animals that learn to take care each other when the going gets rough. Children can listen to the story and then make friendship bracelets for their own best buddies.

Storytime starts at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays and all children are welcome. Storytimes are free, but parents must accompany children younger than 10.

The Fort Riley Post Library is in Building 5306 on Custer Hill. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The library is closed on Mondays.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-9582.

### Center plans gardening visit

Gardeners and flower growers can get a headstart on the coming growing spring by taking part in the "Let's Get Ready for Spring!" visit to West Acres Nursery, 2516 W. Kansas Highway 18, on the outskirts of Junction City.

The Outdoor Recreation Center at Fort Riley is sponsoring the free visit from 1 to 2 p.m. March 5. Interested gardeners and flower growers should sign up at the rec center, 9011 Rifle Range Road, or call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

Classes at the nursery will cover soil temperatures, when to plant, how to prepare the beds, container planting and vegetable and flower plant beds.

### Spouses' club seeks officers

The Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club is accepting nominees for elected and appointed board positions. Elected positions are the president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer.

Appointed positions are community assistance, historian, hospitality, membership, parliamentary, Plain Talk newsletter, property manager, publicity, reservations, retiree representative, Shoppe manager, bookkeeper and liaison, ways and means, child care coordinator and Webmaster.

The slate for nominated elected officers will be presented to the general membership at the March 17 luncheon. Elections will take place at the April 21 luncheon, and installation of new officers will take place at the May 19 luncheon.

For more information, visit the club's Web site at <http://www.fortrileyoscc.com> or send e-mail to [fortrileyoscc@yahoo.com](mailto:fortrileyoscc@yahoo.com).



### Chapel Services

**Kapaun Chapel:**  
• Youth Ministry's Gospel Youth, 7 p.m. Wednesdays  
• Men's Bible study, 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. Thursdays  
• Protestant Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m. Sundays  
• Gospel Bible Study, 7 p.m. Wednesdays

**St. Mary's Chapel:**  
• Youth Ministry's Club Beyond-JV, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sundays September through May  
• Youth Ministry's Club Beyond, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays September through May  
• Catholic Women Mass and meeting, 10 a.m. first Thursday of the month September through May  
• Catholic Mass, 11 a.m. Sundays  
• Protestant Women of the Chapel 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Morris Hill Chapel:**  
• Youth Ministry's Catholic Youth Organization, Sundays September through May  
• Protestant Women of the Chapel, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays  
• RCIA (for anyone who wants to learn more about Catholic teachings and practices), 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays September through May  
• Protestant Gospel worship service, 11 a.m. Sundays  
• Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. Sundays  
• Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), 8 to 8:30 a.m. Sundays or anytime by appointment (239-4814).

• Protestant Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. September through May  
• Catholic kindergarten through high school 9 a.m. after Mass Sundays September through May at Morris Hill Chapel and Fort Riley Middle School  
• Catholic Children's Church, 9 a.m., during Sunday Mass  
• Protestant worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sundays  
• Lutheran worship service, 11 a.m. Sundays

**Main Post Chapel:**  
• Protestant worship service (traditional), 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
• Protestant Sunday school 9:15 a.m. September through May

**Hospital Chapel:**  
• Mass, noon Monday through Thursday

**Jewish religious services** are available upon request. For more information, call the Installation Chaplain's Office at 239-3359.

before major construction projects start, Hall said.

DES surveys ensure the Army follows all federal regulations regarding the preservation of historical artifacts, Hall said.

"We also have an agreement with the Pawnee and other tribes which says in the event we find human remains and determine its native American, we allow them to take possession," said Fiona Price, a DES archaeologist.

Hall briefed the 15 volunteers and board members attending the meeting on Kansas's prehistory and displayed some of the historical objects found on post.

His briefing covered three time periods:  
• Paleo-Indian – from 8,000 to 12,000 years ago – when culture and people arrived during the Ice Age across a land bridge from Asia to North America.  
• Archaic – from 2,000 to 8,000 years ago – when North American natives created spearheads as weapons and used trade lines.

• Ceramic – from 575 to 2000 years ago – when native people became more organized and created pottery.

After Hall's presentation, gathered the group around a display of artifacts found in the privy and from old farmsteads on post so people could see them and speculate about their background.

Price held up a piece of basalt

and reasoned how the volcanic rock could be found here, suggesting that natives during the Archaic period participated in trading.

The basalt was used as a hammer stone and was found by a child on Fort Riley, she said.

The group followed Price to the basement of the DES building to two rooms where the majority

of artifacts stay in controlled air, temperature and light conditions.

"Everything is carefully catalogued and cleaned prior to coming here," Price said.

The members appeared shocked to hear that a human fetus still encased in a jar of embalming fluid was found in the privy 20 years ago.

"I suppose the doctors used it in their labs, but it was also thrown in the pit during the move, I believe," Price said.

Price said DES staff tried to find out the baby's name. Their investigation turned up nothing, so they eventually buried it in the post cemetery.

## About the society

*Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley members and volunteers have kept the group going since the 1970s.*

*HASFR's goal is to preserve and promote the history of Fort Riley.*

*The society has about 120 members*

*Recurring activities sponsored by HASFR include Apple Day, Post Ghost Tours and Custer House tours.*

*HASFR meets on the second Wednesday of every month, usually in the Custer House.*

*The next meeting is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 9 in Custer House, Side B.*

*Source: HASFR President Alma Gutierrez*

THE MARTIN AGENCY  
4 x 10"  
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# Photo exhibits show abandonment, author

## Kansas State University

MANHATTAN – The Mariana Kistler Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University is featuring two special photography exhibitions, both on display through April 10.

The exhibitions are "Jon Blumb Photographs" and "Gone: Photographs of Abandonment on the High Plains" by Steve Fitch.

Blumb, a Kansas resident, was the photographer at the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas from 1981 to 1993.

Well-known for his work in commercial photography, Blumb is also known for his photography of art objects. His photos have been used in numerous exhibition catalogs and other art-related publications.

Blumb earned a bachelor of fine art from the Massachusetts College of Art and a master of fine art in photography from KU. He has been involved with grass-

## If you go:

*The Beach Museum of Art is located at the intersection of 14th Street and Anderson Avenue in Manhattan.*

*Admission is free.*

*Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.*

roots art in Kansas, particularly the Garden of Eden in Lucas.

The exhibition includes large-scale panoramic views of the Italian, Scottish and Kansas landscapes.

Subjects of the photos include boar hunters in Italy, deer stalking in Scotland and a farmstead in Kansas' Atchison County.

Also included in the exhibition is "William S. Burroughs in Prints: A Portfolio of Original Photographs, 1990-1998."

Blumb was a close friend of Burroughs, who was the author of the "Naked Lunch."

The portfolio, recently acquired for the Beach Museum's collection, contains 16 photographs, including one of Burroughs reading from the "Naked Lunch," shooting one of his handguns and scenes from his funeral.

Fitch is an award-winning photographer who teaches photography at the Marion Center for Photographic Arts at the College of

Santa Fe in New Mexico.

His work has been included in numerous exhibitions and is in many museum collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, Harvard University and the San Francisco Museum of Fine Arts.

Fitch focuses his lens on interiors, including homes, churches, dance halls and schools.

While the buildings have been abandoned, his photos show the daily life left, such as a coffee cup, a child's drawing, a television set and more.

The exhibition was organized by Kathleen Stewart Howe for the University of New Mexico Art Museum. It is traveling nationally under TREC: Traveling Exhibitions Programs of the Museum of New Mexico, department of cultural affairs.

A catalog about the artist accompanies the exhibition and was published by the University of New Mexico Press.

Classified Runover  
2 x 21.25"  
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## Leisuretime ideas

### At the movies:

The Barlow Post Theater Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for Children 5 to 11 years old and free for children under age 5, except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

**Feb. 17** – Fat Albert (PG)  
**Feb. 18** – Racing Stripes (PG)

**Feb. 19** – Electra (PG-13)  
**Feb. 20** – Racing Stripes (PG)

**Feb. 24** – Electra (PG-13)  
**Feb. 25** – Coach Carter (PG-13)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

### Manhattan:

**What:** "Fiddler on the Roof." A story magically woven with music, dance, poignancy, and laughter.

**When:** 8 p.m., Feb. 18  
**Where:** McCain Auditorium  
**Phone:** (785) 532-6428  
**Admission:** Varies

**What:** Steamboating on the Kaw – Frontier Adventure with Sonie Liebler. Lecture series co-sponsored by the Riley County Historical Society and the Manhattan Public Library.

**When:** 7 p.m., Feb. 21  
**Where:** 629 Poyntz, Manhattan Public Library  
**Phone:** (785) 776-4741  
**Admission:** Free

**What:** "Black Comedy" by Peter Shaffer. A fascinating, fast-paced comedy.

**When:** 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday Feb. 25 through March 6

**Where:** Grosh Performance Hall, Manhattan Arts Center  
**Phone:** (785) 537-4420  
**Admission:** Varies

**What:** Veterinarian from Asuncion, Paraguay, will speak about wildlife in that country, specifically the Chaco region.

**When:** 7 p.m., Feb. 21  
**Where:** Manhattan Fire Station Headquarters on Kimball  
**Cost:** Free  
**Phone:** (785) 587-2737.

**What:** "The Shape of Things." This contemporary story of love and art set in a college town follows the intensifying relationship between two students.

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 19  
**Where:** Nichols Theater on the Kansas State University campus

**Admission:** \$11 for general public, \$7 for students and senior citizens, groups of 10 or more may receive a discounted rate.  
**Phone:** (785) 532-6857

**What:** "Street Scene." Set in 1939, "Street Scene" is a brutal but hauntingly beautiful depiction of 24 hours in the life of a New York neighborhood, a melting pot that threatens to boil over at any moment. The opera is based on the 1929 Pulitzer Prize winning play by Elmer Rice. The music styles range from borderline Broadway to classic dramatic opera.

**When:** 8 p.m. March 3-5  
**Where:** McCain Auditorium

on the Kansas State University campus

**Admission:** \$13 for general public, \$9 for students and senior citizens, groups of 10 or more may receive a discounted rate.  
**Phone:** (785) 532-6857

**What:** "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead." Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Hamlet's college chums, and their story is what happened behind the scenes in Shakespeare's play. What were they doing there in Elsinore, anyway? The players come and go, Hamlet comes through reading "words, words, words," many foul deeds are done, and all the while the bungling duo are clueless as to what is actually going on around them.

**When:** 8 p.m. April 21-23 and April 27-30

**Where:** Nichols Theater on the Kansas State University campus

**Admission:** \$11 for general public, \$7 for students and senior citizens, groups of 10 or more may receive a discounted rate.

**Phone:** (785) 532-6857

### Salina:

**What:** "Beehive." Delightful musical revue sings and dances its way through girl groups of the '50s, '60s, and '70s.

**When:** Feb. 18, 20, 25 and 27

**Where:** 303 E. Iron, Salina Community Theatre  
**Phone:** (785) 827-6126 or toll free at (877) 414-2367  
**Admission:** \$18-\$21

**What:** Leahy. Eight extraordinarily talented brothers and sisters perform a show of Celtic, Country, and Pop music mixed with high stepping Irish clogging.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19

**Where:** 151 S. Santa Fe, Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts

**Phone:** (785) 827-1988  
**Admission:** \$20-\$35

### Hutchinson:

**What:** "Sound of Music." This is the Family Children's Theatre's major musical production for the season.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17-20

**Where:** 101 S. Walnut, Memorial Hall  
**Phone:** (620) 662-7469  
**Admission:** Adults \$8; seniors \$6; children \$5

**What:** Les Brown's Band of Renown. The 15-piece band conducted by Les Brown, Jr., includes a female vocalist and a multi-media presentation with film clips of stars including Bob Hope. Les Brown, Jr. will regale you with wonderful stories between wonderful songs.

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 26

**Where:** 18 E. First, Historic Fox Theatre  
**Phone:** (620) 663-5861 or toll free at (877) 369-7469  
**Admission:** \$18, \$20 and \$22

### Wichita:

**What:** Women's Fair. From fun to informational, if it's of

interest to women, it's at the Women's Fair. Exhibits, state show, shopping and demonstrations.

**When:** Noon to 7 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18-20

**Where:** 225 W. Douglas, Century II, Expo Hall  
**Phone:** (316) 267-5303  
**Admission:** \$6

**What:** Wichita Symphony Orchestra Classics Concert. Outstanding music with wonderful guest artist, the orchestra's own Amy Goesser Kolb playing oboe.

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 19 and 3 p.m. Feb. 20

**Where:** 225 W. Douglas, Century II Concert Hall

**Phone:** (316) 267-7658  
**Admission:** \$13-\$29

**What:** EquiFest of Kansas. Three-day horse fair and expo featuring world-renowned clinicians, large trade show, and entertaining equine demonstrations.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 25; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 26; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 27

**Where:** 1229 E. 85th St. N., Kansas Coliseum, Valley Center  
**Phone:** (316) 755-1243  
**Admission:** Adults \$10.50; Children 6-12 \$5.50; 5 and under free

### Lawrence:

**What:** Mardi Gras party featuring a live performance by the Kelley Hunt Band. Costumes welcomed and encouraged. King & Queen contests, carnival style games, face painting and photo booth.

**When:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; live performance 7 to 9:30 p.m.; DJ dance party 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Feb. 19

**Where:** 8 E. Sixth St.  
**Phone:** (785) 843-0040  
**Admission:** \$20 before 10 p.m.; \$10 after 10 p.m.

**What:** "Fiddler on the Roof." A timeless classic that has won the hearts of people all around the world. Journey through secret love, forbidden betrothal, weddings, devotion, and forgiveness, tempered by rejection, oppression, and imminent revolution.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19

**Where:** 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas  
**Phone:** (785) 864-2787  
**Admission:** Varies

**What:** "Dancing Henry Five." David Gordon, director, presents a dance-theatre interpretation of Shakespeare's classic play.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23-24  
**Where:** 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas  
**Phone:** (785) 864-2787  
**Admission:** Varies

**What:** "Carmen." Teatro Lirico D'Europa in Bizet's Carmen, one of the best known and most popular of all operas due to its powerful love story, its free-spirited heroine, and its passionate, lyrical music.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26

**Where:** 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas

**Phone:** (785) 864-2787  
**Admission:** Varies

### Wamego:

**What:** "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." A retelling of the Old Testament story of Jacob and his 12 sons. The story for this all-sung piece contains a good deal of humor, including just the right amount of camp, some lessons on forgiveness and maturity, and a sufficient level of drama.

**When:** April 22-24, April 28 through May 1 and May 5-8; Thursday, Friday and Saturday buffet at 6 p.m. with performance at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday buffet at 12:30 p.m. with performance at 2 p.m.

**Cost:** Adult buffet \$17.13 (tax included), show \$19.80 (tax included)

**Phone:** (800) 899-1893

### Wichita:

**What:** Sports Museum Exhibit. Full collection of sports memorabilia, and celebrities.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, through Feb. 28

**Where:** 835 E. First Street, Museum of World Treasures  
**Phone:** (316) 263-1311

**Web site:** www.worldtreasures.org  
**Admission:** Adults \$9.90; seniors \$6.90; youth \$5.90

### Logan:

**What:** Age of Armor Exhibition. Exhibit containing armor and various armor elements from the late middle ages through the Renaissance from the Higgins Armory Museum.

**When:** 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and holidays through March 13

**Where:** 110 W. Main, Dane G. Hansen Museum  
**Phone:** (785) 689-4846  
**Admission:** Free

### Topeka:

**What:** Beyond Lewis and Clark: The Army Explores the West. This traveling exhibit, marks the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

**When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, closed all state holidays, through Aug. 14

**Where:** 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Kansas Museum of History

**Phone:** (785) 272-8681  
**Admission:** Adult \$4; senior (60 and over) \$3; student (K-12, college students with ID) \$2; children 5 and under admitted free when accompanied by an adult

### Cottonwood Falls:

**What:** Music at the Emma. Weekly acoustic jam sessions playing country, gospel, bluegrass, and rock and roll. Musicians and audience welcome.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Fridays year-round

**Where:** 317 Broadway, Emma Chase Café

**Phone:** (620) 273-6020  
**Admission:** Free









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